

**Meeting Minutes of the
NORTH FRONT RANGE TRANSPORTATION &
AIR QUALITY PLANNING COUNCIL**

**June 2, 2016
6 p.m.
Greeley Recreation Center
651 10th Ave., Rooms A&B
Greeley, CO**

Voting Members

Present

Gerry Horak-Chair -Fort Collins
Jennifer Baker -Berthoud
Kevin Ross -Eaton
John Morris -Evans
Tom Norton -Greeley
Tom Donnelly -Larimer County
Paula Cochran -LaSalle
Joan Shaffer -Loveland
Linda Meisner -Milliken
Kathy Gilliland -Trans. Comm.
Sean Conway -Weld County

Absent

Chris Colclasure - CDPHE
Troy Mellon - Johnstown
Don Brookshire - Severance
Paul Steinway - Timnath
Kristie Melendez - Windsor

*No member -Garden City

MPO Staff:

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director; Becky Karasko, Regional Transportation Planning Director; Renae Steffen, Administrative Director; Crystal Hedberg, Finance and Operations Manager; Aaron Buckley and Medora Kealy, Transportation Planners.

In Attendance:

Eric Bracke, Megan Castle, Mark Clark , Jim Eussen, Aaron Greco, Joel Hemesath, Myron Hora, Will Jones, Janet Lindquist, Ken Lloyd, Suzette Mallette, Suzanne O'Neill, Johnny Olson, Karen Schneiders, Fred Starr, Gary Thomas, Dennis Wagner, Randy Watkins.

Vice Chair Ross called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA:

Conway ***moved*** to approve the agenda. The motion was ***seconded*** and ***passed*** unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Conway ***moved*** to approve the May 5, 2016 meeting minutes with one minor correction. The motion was ***seconded*** and ***passed*** unanimously.

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Vice Chair Ross opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

Air Pollution Control Division Report

A written report was provided.

Regional Air Quality Council –RAQC

A written report was provided.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Vice Chair Ross opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:Executive Director Report:

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director, briefly reviewed information from the June 2016 Director's Report Addendum highlighting the information for commenting on the State Implementation Plan at the June 3rd RAQC meeting, the availability of the 2040 RTP Brochure, which was provided, and the hiring of Shane Armstrong for the position of Van Pool Services Coordinator.

Report of the Chair:

Vice Chair Ross recommended that the Report of the Chair be moved to the Council Reports section of the meeting as Chair Horak was not yet present at the meeting. Council agreed to move the item.

TAC:

A written report was provided.

Finance:

Ross briefly reviewed information from the May 19, 2016 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes and noted that due to population adjustments and a lower budget for 2017, all of the communities local matches, except for Timnath whose population numbers had increased more than the other communities will be lower than last year. The new match amounts will be disseminated to the communities after the budget is adopted.

CONSENT ITEM:2016 Q2 TIP Amendment-

*Conway **moved** to approve Resolution 2016-08 Adopting an Amendment to the FY2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Regarding FTA\$5307, FTA\$5310, \$5339, and FASTER Projects for FY2016 and FY2017. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

ACTION ITEMS:2015 Audited Financial Statements

Randy Watkins, Partner, Governmental and Nonprofit Organizations, Anton, Collins, Mitchell, LLP, thanked Crystal Hedberg, Operations and Financial Manager, and others from the MPO staff for being instrumental with the audit process as a whole, and reviewed the NFRT&AQPT Financial statements & Independent Auditor's Report for Year Ended December 31, 2015 with the Council. Norton asked how the audit interrelated with federal audit requirements with FHWA and the Colorado Comptroller. Watkins explained that although the audit will go to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse and could come up randomly for review, the report had no language that should trigger a State or Federal audit. Morris asked what the intent was of the VanGo™ Enterprise Fund. Watkins explained that the intent this enterprise fund is to cover as much of the expenditures through charges for services and not have any

significant amount of VanGo™ resources come from the NFRMPO's general fund. He cited that there were no issues with significant transfers being made and therefore no concern regarding exceeding the limit for this type of fund. Donnelley asked if the results from an upcoming requested study of the VanGo™ program could show a conflict with the separation of the funds. Blackmore responded that because the study being considered was about fare-setting, the fare policy and the possibility of having an app developed that would simplify reporting for NTD, there should not be a conflict. Watkins then reviewed the NFRT&AQPT Audit Wrap-Up June 2, 2016. Council members commended the auditors, MPO staff, MPO Finance Committee and Ross on the successful audit process.

*Conway **moved** to approve the 2015 Audited Financial Statement. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

Vice Chair Ross turned the meeting over to Chair Horak at 6:29 p.m.

FY2017 UPWP

Blackmore briefly reviewed information from the FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) memo with the Council. Norton asked what items had the most critical timelines. Blackmore replied that the most significant projects were currently the alignment of the completed freight plan with the State's Multimodal Freight Plan the Non-motorized Plan, VanGo™ Operations, and preparation for the Long Range Plan data collection. Norton requested that Blackmore provide a schedule of the timelines for those projects at the July 7th Council meeting. Blackmore agreed to provide a schedule to the TAC in June and then the Council in July.

*Norton **moved** to approve Resolution 2016-09 Approving the FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Budget. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

Approval of Funding of MPO Remodel

Crystal Hedberg, Operations and Finance Manager, briefly reviewed the information from Resolution 2016-10 and Exhibit A, Loan Amortization Schedule, with the Council. Conway asked how the interest rate was determined. Hedberg explained that the rate of 0.11% was chosen because it was the currently the rate they were earning from the bank, therefore there would be no loss of income for VanGo™. Measner asked if that rate was fixed or variable. Hedberg replied that it was a fixed rate. Horak added that the loan could be reviewed and revised if interest rates changed dramatically during the term of the loan. Ross asked what the total amount of interest was to be paid out. Hedberg replied it was approximately \$185. Norton identified the importance of MPO staff ensuring that the loan stays in balance and communicating any concerns to the Finance Committee who would also keep the Council updated. Council agreed that would be an appropriate course of action. Horak inquired about the schedule for the office construction. Hedberg responded that the construction schedule had not been finalized yet because the final revision of the lease was just sent back to Blue Ocean for approval and then would need to be signed by both parties, but she assumed construction would begin very soon. Horak commended the MPO staff and Finance Committee on both the decision to reduce the space in order to reduce overhead and choosing a loan option that did not add to the monthly lease payment.

*Conway **moved** to approve Resolution 2016-10 Authorizing a Loan from the VanGo™ Enterprise Fund to the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

PRESENTATIONS:

Denver/North Front Range Moderate Area Ozone SIP

Ken Lloyd, Regional Air Quality Council Executive Director gave the Draft Proposed Ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP) presentation to the Council. Donnelly questioned if the new EPA standard

of 70 ppb which will be implemented in the North Front Range region in the fall, was even attainable. Lloyd identified that even though approximately 75% of the ozone coming into the region comes from sources outside of the State, it is possible to control 15-20 ppb because it is locally produced. Donnelly questioned what strategies were being proposed by the State to help get Northern Colorado into containment. Lloyd responded that he did not currently have information on that and stated that although the situation is very challenging, progress is being made, specifically with lowering mobile-source emissions, clean local power plants, possible renewable energies, and the continued technical advancements in oil and gas. Lloyd also noted that because EPA had already predicted that Northern Colorado was one of the areas that would not meet the new standard, the RAQC would be running their own, more sophisticated, modeling over the next few years. Their goal will be to determine what it would actually take to achieve that standard. One major concern is that the timeframes for reaching standards were set in the Clean Air Act twenty-five years ago. He indicated that there was a bill that he believed had passed in the House that would extend the period of time in which EPA could make any new designations and that may allow an extension to 2026 if it passes. Blackmore asked if Northern Colorado could separate from Denver and reach attainment on their own if they do meet the new standard, as they can determine conformity independently. Lloyd responded that was unfortunately not an option. Council discussion ensued on the seemingly impossible challenges the region is facing regarding containment as long as they are connected to Denver. Lloyd sympathized with the Council and ensured them that efforts were being made. He also indicated that there was a provision in the Clean Air Act that identifies what other states' responsibility will be in assisting Colorado with meeting their standard, although that impact will be very minimal. Horak thanked Lloyd and the RAQC for their efforts and support.

Express Lane/I-25 Expansion

Megan Castle, CDOT Communications Manager, presented CDOT's Express Lane Overview to the Council. In discussing the Express Lane public outreach efforts Castle noted that carpool requirements for I-25 will increase to driver plus 2 on January 1, 2017. Conway inquired about the status of the Highlands Ranch Coalition's C-470 Expansion law suit with FHWA and CDOT. Castle replied that she believed CDOT had done their due-diligence and she was confident that project would be allowed to continue in the future. Norton encouraged Castle and CDOT to continue to go forward in spite of the suit. Morris asked why there was not an HOV lane in the C-470 Express Lanes project. Castle responded that through their environmental process and working with the communities it was not deemed cost effective to have free HOV on that corridor. Donnelly noted that there were some numbers on the C-470 slide did not calculate correctly and asked how much money they would be able to borrow on toll revenue. Castle replied that she was not certain of that amount and corrected the project cost at approximately \$316M with financing. Horak questioned why motorcycles were exempt from fees and encouraged to ride in HOV lanes. Castle replied that it has been determined that managed lanes are safer for motorcycles than switching repeatedly between multiple lanes. Conway noted that is mandated by the State Legislature and CDOT has to comply. Horak asked for an update on signage for where the toll lane on the north connects to the toll lane heading southbound on North I-25 segment two. She indicated that CDOT is still reviewing that location.

Rural Regional Statewide Bus Network

Suzanne O'Neill, Transit Planner/Principal, TransitPlus, Inc., gave the Statewide Rural Regional Bus Network presentation to the Council. Norton inquired whether CDOT's Division of Transit and Rail (DTR) was considering the use of medical vouchers that included transportation in a pay-as-you-go type of program rather than a general subsidy that only fits a certain classification of need for passengers. O'Neill replied that they attempt to balance many needs in the process of route and service planning, and cited additional assistance directly to the desired medical facility as an example. The goal is to find the ideal provision between different types of transportation services available through the different federal programs. The Non-Emergency Medical Transit (NEMT) is a favorable choice because it provides key subsidies and works with a pay-as-you-go voucher; however the rules in using the program can make it less than ideal. CDOT is in communication with Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to find a corridor where they can run an NEMT pilot program in which they could partner. Norton suggested that having Governor Hickenlooper write an Executive Order to get the program up and running would be a practical cost-effective approach that

he would readily support. O'Neill indicated that CDOT was looking at that approach but had encountered many political hurdles. She was happy to hear Norton would offer his support. Norton asked what bus service options were being considered between US 85 and I-25 citing that the last mile is the most critical piece for everyone involved as it requires transit services from the nearby communities. O'Neill responded that CDOT is currently looking at reverse-commute service on those two corridors as well as stops in the Carbon Valley area are part of the Bustang expansion plan. She added that in CDOT's Intercity and Regional Bus Network Plan, the connection between Greeley and Fort Collins is also a priority in their planning. Will Jones, Greeley-Evans Transit Manager, stated that it was important to keep US 85 service covered with Bustang for service into Denver and added that the funding piece will be interesting as there is only \$500K identified for Regional service in the FASTER program, which is also the potential funding pot for the regional route between Greeley and Fort Collins.

Norton asked for Conway's input on a transportation voucher program for Weld County. Conway expressed his frustration with the health care policies associated with that type of transit option, citing that Weld County had attempted to implement a program but it had been taken over by the State and is now managed by Total Transit, a mobility management company based out of Arizona. Norton raised the question of whether the MPO should step in to force the issue and get CDOT and Health Services on the same page. The Council engaged in a robust discussion on the need for low income health trips for veterans, senior citizens, Medicaid recipients and others. Blackmore identified that the NFRMPO's Human Services Coordinated Plan, being led by Alex Gordon, Transportation Planner/Mobility Coordinator, does identify the need to get people to medical appointments. Conway agreed to work with other entities to look at viable solutions. O'Neill committed to share the Council's comments and concerns with CDOT and then follow up with Blackmore to address the issue and possibly form a coalition.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Bike/Traffic Counters Update

Aaron Buckley, Transportation Planner, briefly reviewed information on the location of permanent counters and the first month's data. He also noted the MPO has three mobile counters that may be used by local community members if a staff person had been trained on their installation. Any community wishing to use the counters should contact Aaron at abuckley@nfrmpo.org.

CMP Annual Report

Medora Kealy, Transportation Planner, reviewed the Draft 2016 Congestion Management Process Annual Report with the Council. Blackmore noted that there is no solid definition of the term congestion. She also suggested that it may be more beneficial if the target is set after congestion has been reviewed. Norton jubilantly agreed. Council discussion ensued regarding the accuracy of the report's data, the targets used, and the threshold previously set by the Council. Horak concluded the discussion by requesting that MPO staff take their suggested recommendations for the 2017 NFRMPO targets as a discussion item to the TAC meeting on June 15th with a focus on what the underlying assumptions are and what the overall goal is. The TAC's discussion and additional recommendations on the process going forward will then go to the Council in July for discussion. Blackmore indicated that there was a requirement to report their current findings on the approved target back to FHWA, regardless of their accuracy or positivity. Horak clarified that both TAC and Council would go forward with voting on the adoption of the 2016 CMP Annual Report as an action item at their next meetings. Horak thanked Kealy for her presentation.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission Report

Gilliland reported that the kick-off for the Berthoud Hill Climbing lane was held on May 26, 2016 with many local elected officials in attendance as well as the media. She expressed her appreciation to everyone involved in the project.

CDOT Region 4

Olson provided the 2016 Major Northeast Colorado CDOT Projects and NFRMPO Area Project Status Updates (31 May 2016) to the Council. He then commented to the Council that CDOT was looking for a TAC representative for the North I-25 Charter and that the person chosen would need to be a subject matter expert and that the position would require extreme confidentiality in handling the solicitation package. They are very confident that there will be a significant base project done on I-25 and they want to be prepared when the TIGER or FASTLANE Grant is potentially awarded in September. He added that no decision had been made on a candidate for the position but soon they would be reaching out to the participating communities with an email listing the qualifications. Olson briefly reviewed the Project Status Update with the Council noting that the SH 14 Bridge Project was inadvertently omitted from the list. Horak suggested a modification to the detour near the SH 14 Bridge. Olson indicated that he would need to look into the project more to ensure it would in no way interfere with their qualifications for the TIGER Grant. Donnelly inquired about getting an improved railroad switch at Riverside and Lemay in Fort Collins that consistently backs up traffic. Horak indicated that Fort Collins was working with BNSF on a multi-faceted solution for that switch location.

North I-25 Coalition

Conway reported that Steve Tool, Sandra Solin and David May had debriefed the members on the 2016 Legislative Session and the progress made. The North I-25 Coalition plans to invite State Senators to a future meeting as they prepare for the 2017 Legislative Session.

STAC Report

A written report was provided. Conway added that they were requesting suggestions for their upcoming retreat.

Host Council Report

Norton thanked everyone for coming to Greeley and encouraged them to return for the Greeley Stampede June 23 - July 4. He reported that the City of Greeley currently has \$12M in transportation construction projects throughout the city.

Evans- Morris reported that the City of Evans has many new projects starting construction and development in the next several weeks.

Milliken- Measner announced that Milliken has raised 30% of the \$2M needed for the design/build of a storm water drainage system that will help mitigate some of the flooding on Josephine Street. The town hopes to receive a FEMA grant they applied for recently. The Milliken Police Department received a \$7,000 grant for DUI enforcement.

Larimer County- Donnelly reported that paving had begun on CR 43.

LaSalle- Cochran announced that the Dove Hill Subdivision would bring 70 new homes to the town. She also noted that La Salle Day is July 16th.

Berthoud- Baker reported that Berthoud Day was June 4th. She noted that the town is very excited about the Berthoud Climbing Hill project and the repaving of SH 56 and noted how crucial these projects are to the new Love's Travel Center, existing industrial development and the community as a whole.

Weld County- Conway announced that the Weld County Road 49 Project will start construction on the south end of the corridor in June and encouraged everyone to go to the Weld County website to get

digital WCR 49 updates delivered to their cell phone or email. The WCR 49 Corridor Project Information Line is 970-573-6800.

Eaton- Ross thanked Olson and CDOT for their work on SH 392 at Lucerne. He invited everyone to Eaton Days July 8-10 and noted that a new subdivision will bring 200 new homes to Eaton.

Fort Collins- Horak announced that there would be a meeting with local officials from Northern Colorado and Sarah Feinberg, Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration at the Loveland Public Works Offices on June 17th. The roundtable discussion on the Train Horn Rule will be open to elected officials.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Final Public Comment:

Gary Thomas, SAINT Executive Director, thanked the Council for discussing the need for Medicaid transportation, as it is a very important issue.

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions:

- 1) CMP Target recommendations for 2017

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff